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**OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**

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**Linda McCulloch**  
Superintendent

May 19, 2008

To: Responsible School Officials  
Directors of Special Education and Cooperative Directors  
Parents

From: Steve Gettel, Superintendent  
Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind

Tim Harris, Director of Special Education  
Office of Public Instruction

Re: Summer Skills Programs

The Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI), Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind (MSDB), and the Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind Foundation will co-sponsor summer programs at MSDB. The programs will target communication, social interaction, independent living skills and use of technology for students between the ages of 9-14 (7 and 8 year olds will be considered on a case-by-case basis for the deaf camp only) who have hearing impairments or deafness, and the ages of 9-16 who have blindness or visual impairments. The week-long programs are provided at no cost to the student for room, board and transportation. Transportation to and from the program will be reimbursed at state rates.

In order to facilitate appropriate planning, please share this letter and the attached questionnaire with parent(s) of students who are identified as having an impairment of blindness, deafness, visual or hearing impairments.

**CRITERIA FOR PRIORITIZED SELECTION**

1. Student identified as having blindness, deafness, visual or hearing impairments
2. Student enrolled full time in a Montana public school
3. Student has a current IEP which identifies skill development in one of the areas identified above

If you have questions regarding summer programs described, please call MSDB at 771-6000 and ask for information concerning the summer skills program.

## **PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS**

### **Deaf and Hearing Impaired Skills Program**

#### Communication

- Speech and language skills
- Sign language skills

#### Social Development

- Interpersonal skills
- Self-esteem building activities
- Etiquette

#### Technology

- Use of telephone device for the deaf (TDD)
- Use of assistive devices for the deaf (flashing alarm clocks, doorbells, close captioning, etc.)
- Use of computers

### **Blind and Visually Impaired Skills Program**

#### Food Preparation

- Kitchen Orientation
- Menu Planning
- Cooking

#### House Cleaning

- Laundry
- Bathrooms
- Kitchens
- Floors
- Vacuuming, Mopping

#### Money Management and Banking

#### Orientation and Mobility

- Use of Low-vision Aides

#### Technology

- Use of Computers

In addition to the above, structured fitness/exercise and leisure/recreational activities will be provided. This includes such activities as: roller skating, dancing, swimming, horseback riding, mini-golf, bowling, Great Falls Explorers baseball games, etc. The Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind has a complete recreation complex and the community of Great Falls provides a variety of tour sites such as the Charles M. Russell Museum, the Air Museum at Malmstrom Air Force Base, Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center, Giant Springs Hatchery, and the Paris Gibson Art Museum.

The summer skills program will provide an effective and enjoyable opportunity for deaf, hearing impaired, blind or visually impaired students to improve competence in independent living skills and to expand socialization opportunities with other students with similar impairments.

**INTEREST SURVEY FOR SUMMER SKILLS PROGRAM AT  
THE MONTANA SCHOOL  
FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND**

If you are interested in having your child attend a week-long summer skills program at the Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind (M.S.D.B.) please complete this survey.

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**PART I IDENTIFYING INFORMATION**

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Parents (s) Name (s): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

School District Attended: \_\_\_\_\_ Receiving Special Ed: \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

Name of Special Education Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

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**PART II BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

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1. My child has been identified as having the following impairment:  
☐ Blindness  
☐ Deafness  
☐ Hearing Impaired  
☐ Visually Impaired
  
2. I would be interested in having my hearing impaired/deaf child attend a week-long skills program on the following dates:  
\_\_\_\_\_ June 22 through June 28, 2008
  
3. I would be interested in having my visually impaired/blind child attend a week-long skills program on the following dates:  
\_\_\_\_\_ July 13 through July 19, 2008

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**PLEASE RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM BY MAY 25, 2008 TO:**

**Summer Programs 2008**  
Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind  
3911 Central Avenue  
Great Falls, Montana 59405

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